

Towing Update for BMW X5 (E53), X3 (E83), 525xi and 530xi (E60, E61), and 325xi, 330xi and 330xd (E90, E91) Model Vehicles

The "xDrive" four-wheel drive system is a feature of vehicles in the above mentioned model series. This system has a servo motor in the electronically controlled transfer case to split drive torque between the front and rear axles. Under certain conditions, torque is still split between front and rear axles even if the servo motor is de-energised. This has to be taken into account, particularly if a car has to be towed.

Effect:

If one axle is lifted off of the ground using a wheel lift or 2-wheel "dinghy" towing dolly, drive from the wheels still on the ground could cause the wheels of the raised axle to rotate and possibly pull free from the towing device or cause damage to the transfer case assembly of the vehicle.

Affected vehicles:

- X5 (E53) from October 2003
- X3 (E83) from start of series production
- 525xi and 530xi (E60, E61) from April 2005
- 325xi, 330xi and 330xd (E90, E91) from September 2005

Procedure:

Important: Observe towing stickers and information in the operating instructions. The towing sticker is affixed to the vehicle at the position described below:

- X3 and X5: on the B-pillar.
- E60, E61, E90 and E91: at the front end on the driver's door near the rotary catch lock.

Do not attempt to tow the vehicle with the wheels of one axle lifted off of the ground (this applies equally to the front or rear axle) and the other axle remaining in contact with the road surface.

The cars can be moved with all four wheels on the ground, ("flat towed"), in order to gain access with proper towing equipment. Flat towing with a rope or chain is illegal in most areas.

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